

Representative Zack Hudgins

Office:

PO Box 40600
326 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
1-800-562-6000

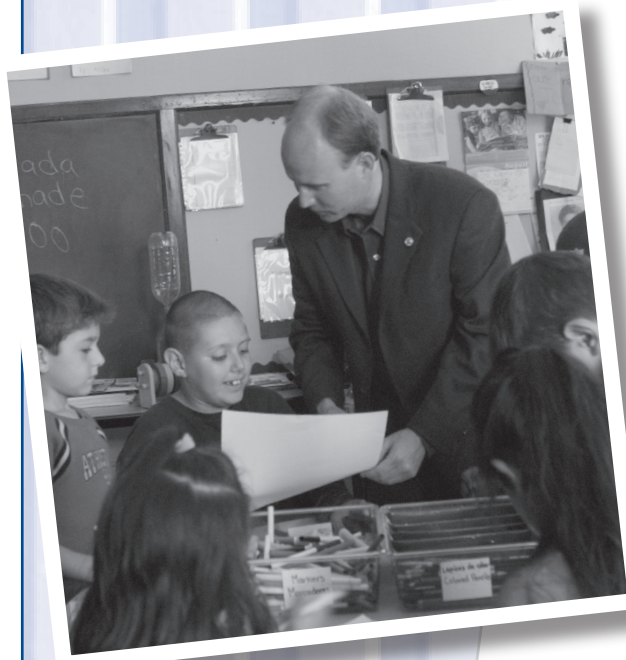
Assistant Floor Leader,
House Democratic Caucus

Committees:

- Commerce and Labor
- Technology, Energy
& Communications
- Transportation
- Rules

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington State
Department of Printing

D- 11th District



FROM THE DESK OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Zack Hudgins

2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We have just finished our legislative session in Olympia and I am back in the neighborhood again. Watch for me up in the Renton Highlands where I get my hair cut, or in downtown Renton where I go out to eat. You may see me on Beacon Hill where I go to church and shop at the Red Apple, or maybe at the Lowe's in Tukwila if I am working on my small house. I get my oil changed in Burien, and have meetings in Georgetown. Wherever I am, feel free to ask me how the session went.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you in Olympia. Remember, I'm working for you and I especially enjoy hearing from you about the issues that face us. I heard from thousands of people this year and do my best to answer each one with a personal note. Getting your input and telling you where I stand on issues is one of the most important parts of my job.

Our democracy works best when there is an informed electorate, and if you need more information about what is going on in Olympia I will get it to you.

Thank you again for the opportunity and honor to serve you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zack Hudgins".

Zack Hudgins
State Representative
11th Legislative District

Legislative Updates sent to your inbox

Because of election year mailing restrictions, I will be able to start sending e-memos again in December 2006. I hope we can continue an ongoing community conversation about legislative issues at that time, so be sure to contact me via the hotline (1-800-562-6000) if you'd like to sign up for my regular e-mailed updates.



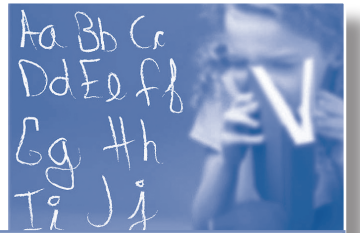
Zack Hudgins

2006 Legislative Report



No matter where you are in life, I'm working for you and your family

Here's a quick look at some of the legislative highlights from the '05-'07 state budget:



Birth & childhood

- We expanded the Early Reading Initiative
- We provided \$1 million for the child care career and wage ladder program
- We covered 7,400 more kids through the Children's Health Program, bringing us closer to our goal of covering every child by 2010
- We increased access to Medicaid for low-income children by eliminating their premium charge



Our workforce

- We opened apprenticeship opportunities to high school students in order to ease the transition from learning to earning in the construction and building industry
- We teamed up with 'Helmets to Hardhats' to provide apprenticeships for returning veterans on state public works projects. By earning the skills to succeed, we'll help transition soldiers from military service to the construction workforce.
- We improved low-wage workers' access to job training in high-demand fields to help employers get the skilled workers they need
- We created the Washington Customized Employment Workforce Training Program, so local businesses can contract with colleges to provide customized workforce training



Higher education

- More people can go to college because we funded more higher education enrollment slots
- To plan for our high-tech future, we provide \$4.6 million for additional enrollments in the areas of math, science and engineering
- To help students afford rising tuition costs, we provided \$4.1 million for the Opportunity Grant program

K-12

- We increased total new spending on education by the state to \$1.45 billion, keeping in line with voter-approved I-728 & I-732
- \$50 million for K-12 employee salaries to attract the best & brightest
- \$28.5 million to provide help for students struggling with the WASL
- \$4 million mentoring program for middle and high school students
- Hungry kids can't learn, so we added \$2 million more to school breakfast programs

Keeping your kids safe

I voted for over 17 pieces of legislation this session that will crack down on Washington's most dangerous sex offenders. Some of these bills create:

- Mandatory 25-years-to-life sentences for child rape or molestation in the first degree committed by strangers or teachers, coaches and other trusted authority figures
- Round-the-clock GPS monitoring of sex offenders
- The crime of communicating with a minor through email or a computer for immoral purpose
- We also designated the possession of child pornography as a sex offense.

All of these measures had the support of police officers, prosecutors and victims' advocates, and give Washington some of the toughest laws in the country

Helping you build your business

- We raised the small business personal property tax exemption from \$3,000 to \$15,000 for work items (like office equipment and computers)
- The Small Business Health Insurance Pool will blend employer and employee dollars with state assistance to make good health coverage affordable for employers and employees
- We support worker training programs for small businesses giving them a tax break when they invest in training for their employees



Helping ease the commute

- We require transportation audits to restore accountability and public confidence in the Central Puget Sound's transportation system, which has suffered from inefficiency, service duplication and bureaucratic in-fighting.
- We added funding for 150 more vanpools for transit agencies
- We also fund traffic safety projects, including Safe Routes to Schools, pedestrian projects and bicycle safety



A home of your own in a great community

- We created a new way for cities and counties to promote job creation and economic development, the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT)
- Through the Public Works Trust Fund, we grant over \$181 million to local governments for community projects all over Washington to improve or repair water, sewer, and park infrastructure

Investing in our future

- We created the Energy Freedom Fund to boost renewable energy and biofuels that will help Washington farmers enter the growing market of biofuels and break our state's dependence on foreign oil
- We expanded affordable housing options
- We created the Veterans' Innovation Program, which will assist returning veterans and their families
- We funded pandemic flu response and emergency preparedness
- We set over \$900 million dollars aside in savings accounts for next year

Long-term care:

Washington's seniors and disabled adults will benefit from investments in their health care. In this budget we prioritized:

- Independent provider home care workers and agency providers who care for the ill or vulnerable
- Increased nursing home Medicaid reimbursements
- Payments to assisted living facilities



Health care

We provide better access to more affordable care in the 2006 budget by:

- Covering 6,500 more people through the Basic Health Plan
- Providing \$1.7 million to increase breast and cervical cancer screening for low-income, uninsured women
- Supporting community health clinics that provide free and reduced-cost medical care